

White blood cells protect the body by inactivating and destroying foreign agents, including tumor cells. The specificity of the immune response is mediated by lymphocytes. Lymphocytes express certain transmembrane proteins on their cell surfaces that distinguish between normal lymphocyte cell types, as well as between normal and cancerous cells. These lymphocyte “markers” are used for diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy. Zsig16 is a new transmembrane protein that is expressed by human peripheral blood lymphocytes.